AN ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL SEPULCHRAL INSCRIPTIONS AND FIGURES IN BAS-RELIEF,

Discovered, in 1755, at Bonn in Lower Germany.

In a Letter to

JAMES WEST, Esquire, Pr. R. S.

FROM

JOHN STRANGE, Esquire, F. R. S.

Communicated to the Royal Society, November 9, 1769.

LONDON,
Printed by W. Bowyer and J. Nichols.
MDCCLXX.

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SIR,

YOUR diſtinguiſhed taſte for antiquities, and the zeal you have ever ſhewn in the preſervation of them, encourage me to addreſs to you the following account of ſome curious remains of Roman antiquity, found a few years ſince at Bonn in Lower Germany.

In a journey to Italy, in the ſummer of 1757, paſſing through Germany and the Tyrol, I had opportunities of collecting ſeveral ancient Roman inſcriptions, which, upon examination afterwards, I found had never been publiſhed. Upon my arrival in Tuſcany, I therefore communicated them to ſuch, among my literary friends, as delighted in theſe ſtudies, and my German inſcriptions were ſoon after publiſhed by Dr. Lami, profeſſor of theology at Florence (1).

(1) Novelle Letterarie di Firenze, t. xxiv. p. 527.

The remainder were inſerted by Abbé Donati, of Lucca, in a new collection of ancient Roman inſcriptions which he has lately publiſhed by way of ſupplement to Muratori's Theſaurus. But as ſeveral of the inſcriptions, which I had collected in Germany, were copied from bas-reliefs, which appeared to me to be curious, and very little known, I thought proper to have drawings of them made, and take this opportunity of communicating them to you; deſiring at the ſame time, that you would be pleaſed to preſent them, in my name, to the learned Society over which you preſide, ſhould you think they merit their attention and acceptance. Permit me at preſent to give you the following ſhort account of the originals.

About May, 1755, in digging ſome foundations in a garden belonging to his ſerene Highneſs the Elector of Cologne, at Bonn in Germany, ſeveral ancient Roman ſepulchral ſtones were found. Eight of theſe, being thought curious on account of the bas-reliefs and inſcriptions carved upon them, were ſoon after fixed up againſt the wall of an inner open court of the electoral palace at Bonn, where they ſtill remain.

The drawings(2), which I have now the honour to ſend you, are faithful copies of theſe antiquities, which being in the higheſt preſervation, and the inſcriptions upon them containing nothing more than the uſual form, it would be impertinent to enter into any particular deſcription of them. I cannot however omit remarking the ſingular barbarity of the Roman ſoldiers names in theſe inſcriptions. It will be further

(2) See the two Plates annexed.

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ſatisfactory to acquaint you, that I wrote ſome time ago to Father Hartzheim, a learned Jeſuit and antiquarian of Cologne (the author of *Veldidena* and ſeveral other tracts relating to the antiquities of Lower Germany, and who is ſince dead), in order to know whether any farther diſcoveries had been made at Bonn ſince that time. His anſwer aſſured me that nothing more had been found.

This is all I have to trouble you with upon the preſent ſubject; give me leave, therefore, to aſſure you, that I ſhall with pleaſure embrace any future opportunity of communicating ſuch particulars, relative to the ſcope of the Royal Society, as have fallen within the courſe of my travels; and ſhall ever eſteem their indulgence an ample compenſation for my trouble.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient

and humble ſervant,

Cavendiſh Square,
July 10, 1769.

John Strange.